

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Poland/Germany (Soviet Zone)
SUBJECT Proposed Reduction Works at Krakow/Bitterfeld
Aluminum Plant
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1. In the agreement of the Satellite States with the USSR, Poland must construct an aluminum reduction works by 1955 with a yearly output of 20 thousand metric tons of metal. Poland will not build an alumina plant, but the entire requirements for aluminum and abrasives will be imported from Hungary. The latter has agreed to deliver 50 thousand tons of alumina yearly beginning in late 1955.
2. This agreement is highly advantageous for Hungary because it is much more economical for Hungary to export alumina than bauxite. Increased production of alumina will permit more economical generation of process steam and power through more efficient use of back-pressure (controlled-extraction turbines) power plants..
3. The Polish Government will build the same type reduction works as in Inota, Hungary. Construction will begin in 1954, and buildings will be of prefabricated reinforced concrete construction. Instructors and foreman will come from Hungary. The Poles obtained the complete plans from Hungary, not only for equipment but also detailed designs for the prefabricated concrete buildings by the terms of the Mutual Technical Aid Commission.
4. An alumina plant was erected in Bitterfeld before World War II by the Metallgesellschaft A G with a reduction works on the same site. In 1942, experiments were made for the first time with mechanical, contact revolving rectifiers, manufactured by the Siemens Co. The results at that time were not successful. The aluminum works operated 28,000 or 30,000-ampere cells. A plant for the electrolysis of salt brine for the production of caustic and chlorine was included in the Bitterfeld combine.

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5. After World War II MAG (Metallgesellschaft AG) was entirely taken over by the Soviets. Thus the great chemical combine at Bitterfeld is now operated and managed by the Soviets and the German authorities have nothing to do with its operation.
6. The aluminum reduction works is believed to be operating on an expanded scale because the East German section of AEG delivered rectifiers after the war to the aluminum works at Bitterfeld. The rectifiers were rated at 60 thousand amperes and 650 volts.
7. Corundum is manufactured at Chonrewicz, near Bitterfeld.

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